

**NATLAND PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Council Meeting**  
**Held at Natland Village Hall at 7pm.**  
**On Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

**25/73 Present:** Councillors Smith (Chairman), Clark, Harkness, Ibbs, Kelly and Wilson. Westmorland & Furness Councillor Doug Rathbone, three members of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were received from Westmorland & Furness Councillor Jonathan Brook.

**25/74 Public participation:**

Mr Ian Brodie highlighted problems with the 552 bus service through Natland suggested possible changes that might be made. This would be considered more fully under 'correspondence' later in the meeting.

**25/75 Declarations of Interest:**

Councillors Ibbs and Kelly, should anything relating to St Mark's Church be discussed.

**25/76 Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**25/77 Co-option of a Councillor:**

The Chairman welcomed Carol Catnach to the Council. She then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of office.

**25/78 Westmorland and Furness Councillors:**

Councillor Rathbone said there was nothing specifically to report but he would be happy to answer any questions.

**25/79 School playground:**

There was nothing further to report at present.

**25/80 Parking on Sedgwick Road:**

- a. The attention of the Council had been drawn to the problem of parked cars on Sedgwick Road and double yellow lines had been suggested. The Council was strongly against the introduction of yellow lines, feeling that would be out of character in a village like Natland, but felt that, as this area is scheduled for the new 20 mph speed limit, the situation may improve. The Council also felt

that the traffic situation on Natland Road would improve with the introduction of the new 40mph speed limit.

#### **25/81 Planning:**

a. *The following application was considered and there were no objections:*

2025/1254/HOU Stone Gables, Natland. Proposed garden/office/store adjacent to the main driveway.

*The following application had arrived after the last meeting and a 'no objections' comment had been submitted, with the condition that the Council asked for a planning restriction to prevent any future floodlighting of this area.*

2025/0617/FPA Land north of Yaffles Barrows Green. New 40x20m horse arena (manège) situated to the west of the existing agricultural/equestrian building and be finished in a fibre sand surface, and enclosed with a post and rail fence.

#### **25/82 Finance:**

a. *It was resolved to pay the following accounts:*

Lune Valley Landscapes & Ground Maintenance  
£225.00 Grass cutting (noted)

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£225.00 Grass cutting (noted)

K M Price £166.20 Quarterly expenses to 30<sup>th</sup> June, Including use of home office and travel.

b. The monthly cash and budget statements were noted.

c. The Clerk reported that £20,000 would be transferred to the Council's interest bearing account, upon two signatories signing the letter to request this.

d. It was resolved, in view of the great difficulties experienced in opening an account with Lloyds Bank, to abandon this and to remain with Barclays Bank. Cllr Clark volunteered to talk again to Barclays about extending the mandate so that all councillors could countersign cheques.

#### **25/83 Reports from Councillors:**

a. **Highwayman:** Councillor Clark said that potholes are being repaired quickly but road closures are still an issue. The previous week had seen a bin lorry hitting trees and so vegetation is a problem. Most of the 20 mph speed limit signs have now appeared, prior to the official launch in August. A resident had previously contacted the Council regarding the faded white lines at various locations in the village, especially at the four junctions around

the Village Green. Councillor Harkness had volunteered to inspect the road markings through the village. He had reported eight junctions which needed repainting and these had been noted by Westmorland & Furness Council. The Clerk and Councillor Rathbone will follow this up with Westmorland & Furness Council.

- b. **Footpaths Officer:** Councillor Kelly said that the report she had made in July 2024 regarding report the state of the footpath at the top of Oxenholme Lane had finally received a reply, stating that the work has been added to the jobs to be done in due course. She also noted that the supporting planks alongside the riverside footpath along the high edge which had been previously reported had not been repaired. Even though these are not in Natland parish, Cllr Kelly agreed to report this again.
- c. Councillor Wilson said that the hedge on the Sedgwick Road footpath is overgrown. Jones Homes is responsible for the Helmdale hedge at present but contact with them is difficult. Westmorland and Furness are responsible for the road-side hedge. It was noted that hedges are normally not cut until September to protect nesting birds.
- d. **Village Hall, representative:** Councillor Wilson said that the small hall ceiling is to be strengthened, following which Rentokil will deal with woodworm in the roof timbers. Soffits on the kitchen roof which contain low-risk asbestos are to be professionally encapsulated. The annual Craft Fair will be held on 9th November.
- e. CALC: there was nothing to report at present. However, the new training programme would be published soon and councillors were encouraged to take advantage of training opportunities.

#### **25/84 Correspondence:**

- f. Following Mr Brodie's concerns about the irregularity of the 552 bus service, the Council directed the Clerk to contact the bus transport officer at Westmorland & Furness Council to report the problem of the late and unreliable service by the time the bus arrived in Natland. It was hoped that adjustments could be made to the timetable to avoid busses arriving very late when potential passengers had gone home. The Clerk will copy the Chairman and Councillor Rathbone in any correspondence.
- g. The Clerk will send the new access code for CALC to all Councillors.

#### **25/85 Date and place of the next meeting:**

***Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 7pm at Natland Village Hall.***  
*The meeting closed at 8.40pm.*

*Signed:*

*Dated:*